## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

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**ACTION ARA-10** 

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

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R 142149Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7078

CONFIDENTIAL BOGOTA 1493

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, CU, CO

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO AND THE CUBAN ISSUE

1. DURING A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO, HE AGAIN STRESSED HIS BELIEF THAT THE LATIN DESIRE TO POSTPONE THE BUENOS AIRES MFM WAS DUE MORE TO THE POTENTIAL DIVISIVENESS OF THE CUBAN QUESTION THAN TO THE REACTION TO THE TRADE ACT. HE LABELED THE MEXICAN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT IT WOULD NOT ATTEND THE BUENOS AIRES MEETING IF CUBA DID NOT AS THE COUP DE GRACE. LIEVANO SAID THAT HE KNEW THAT US SPOKESMEN HAD DENIED THAT THE CUBAN ISSUE HAD MUCH TO DO WITH THE POSTPONEMENT, BUT HE SAID, "WE LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS KNOW THAT IT DID".

2. THESE COMMENTS ARE INTERESTING FOR WHAT THEY TELL OF LIEVANOS OBSESSION WITH THE CUBAN ISSUE AND HIS CONTINUED SMARTING OVER THE FAILURE OF THE QUITO MEETING. HIS CHAGRIN AND EMBARRASSMENT REGARDING THE LATTER STILL HURT HIM DEEPLY AND HE CANNOT DISASSOCIATE US FROM THAT EVENT. IT IS, I THINK, IMPORTANT TO KEEP THIS OBSESSION IN MIND WHEN TALKING OR DEALING WITH LIEVANO. THIS ALSO RESULTS IN HIS BEING ONE OF THE PRIME PUSHERS AMONG PRESIDENT LOPEZ ADVISORS FOR A NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA. AND, INDEED, EITHER PARTIAL OR FULL NORMALIZACONFIDENTIAL

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TION OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COLOMBIA AND CUBA APPEARS FAIRLY IMMINENT.

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Subject: FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO AND THE CUBAN ISSUE

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